

## Torres, Francine

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**From:** danaj@landstewardshipproject.org%inter2 [danaj@landstewardshipproject.org] on behalf of danaj@landstewardshipproject.org  
**Sent:** Friday, February 18, 2005 4:13 PM  
**To:** Torres, Francine  
**Subject:** biodiversity conservation criteria

February 18, 2005

Jim Riddle, Chair of NOSB  
c/o Ms. Francine Torres  
USDAAMSTMDNOP  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW  
Room 4008 So.  
Ag Stop 0268  
Washington, DC 20250-0200

Dear Mr. Riddle:

I am writing to ask the National Organic Standards board to grant the request of the Wild Farm Alliance for endorsement of the biodiversity conservation criteria as additions to NOSB's model Organic System Plan (OSP). The criteria were developed by a broad based group composed of organic farmers, certifiers, inspectors and conservationists.

The request does not seek to rewrite the rule or ask for clarification.

The requirement for biodiversity conservation is already in the National Organic Program rule, but it has not been addressed, and this request is to have it addressed and provide some help in implementation.

Endorsement by the NOSB would establish a commonly understood expectation of what it means to conserve biodiversity and to maintain or improve the natural resources of the farm or ranch. Having criteria endorsed by the NOSB would be very helpful to certifiers and inspectors.

I am pleased that the definition of organic farming and the Preamble to the rule clearly establish the responsibility of organic agriculture to protect biological diversity and ecosystem processes. This is very important to the long-term capacity of our agricultural land to produce food. The biodiversity criteria proposed by the Wild Farm Alliance will help farmers, certifiers and inspectors apply the values behind the definition in a meaningful manner.

Sincerely,

Dana Jackson  
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